

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0359

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMANN AND DESIGNEE TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PINS, PINR, SHUM, UY
SUBJECT: URUGUAYAN RELATIONS - HUMAN RIGHTS/MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR
PEREZ CALDAS

1. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE PRESENCE HERE OF AMBASSADORS PEREZ CALDAS AND GIAMBRUNO, AND OF URUGUAY'S OAS REPRESENTATIVE ARANEO, HAS PROVOKED MUCH PUBLICITY AS HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS HAS FOCUSED ON US-URUGUAYAN RELATIONS. AT A TWO-HOUR PRIVATE LUNCH AT MY RESIDENCE TODAY WITH PEREZ CALDAS I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE SITUATION WITH HIM. I FOUND HIM AS CONCERNED AS I AM OVER THE DETERIORATING STATE OF RELATIONS AND WE AGREED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE. I FOUND HIM ALSO IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE VIEWS I HAVE LONG EXPRESSED TO URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS AND TO THE DEPARTMENT; NAMELY, THAT NO AMOUNT OF CRITICISM BY URUGUAY OF ITS CRITICS IS GOING TO ALTER THE SITUATION AND THAT THE ONLY VIABLE COURSE MUST BE FOR URUGUAY TO ALTER THOSE PRACTICES WHICH ARE LEGITIMATELY SUBJECT TO CRITICISM, TO INVITE APPROPRIATE INSPECTION AND TO BE WILLING TO TAKE WHATEVER LEGITIMATE CRITICISM MAY COME FROM THAT INSPECTION.

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2. PEREZ CALDAS, WHILE FINDING HIMSELF ON THE DEFENSIVE IN FRONT OF THOSE HERE WHO HAVE ACCUSED HIM OF NOT BEING AS EFFECTIVE AS HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON THIS ISSUE, NONETHELESS BELIEVES THAT HE HAS UNCOVERED GENUINE CONCERN AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND A DESIRE TO DO SOMETHING EFFECTIVE TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF EVENTS. ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT MAY BE IN PROSPECT HE SAID, "MEDIDAS INTERNAS" (INTERNAL MEASURES) DESIGNED TO

CORRECT IMPROPER PRACTICES IN THE INTERNAL SECURITY AREA AND, HE HOPES, EVENTUALLY TO INVITE INSPECTION BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THIS, AT LEAST, HE SAID, IS WHAT IS UNDER DISCUSSION AND HE HAS HOPES THAT IT WILL EVENTUALLY COME ABOUT. IN ADDITION, HE SAID, ANOTHER MEASURE COULD BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN "ACTION COMMITTEE" EMPOWERED TO DEAL EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. THIS WOULD ENSURE, HE SAID, THAT IF A LETTER WERE RECEIVED FROM "SENATOR KENNEDY FOR EXAMPLE", THE MATTER WOULD BE QUICKLY LOOKED INTO AND DEALT WITH SO THAT AN APPROPRIATE ANSWER COULD BE GIVEN.

3. PEREZ CALDAS EXPECTS TO REMAIN HERE THROUGH NEXT WEEK AS HE WISHES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE OF OAS SEC GEN ORFILA. HE HOPES TO BRING ORFILA INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH HIGHEST URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS ON THE WAY URUGUAY IS VIEWED FROM THE OUTSIDE IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THIS WILL FURTHER SUPPORT HIS OWN EFFORTS. WHILE PEREZ CALDAS EXPECTS TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON AFTER NEXT WEEK, HE IMPLIED THAT HE MAY WELL BE "SACRIFICED" AS A NEW COURSE OF ACTION IS UNDERTAKEN. APPARENTLY GENERAL VADORA IS VERY UPSET OVER PEREZ CALDAS' HANDLING OF PROBLEMS WHICH RECENTLY AROSE CONCERNING ASSIGNMENT OF MILITARY OFFICERS. THE PROBLEM IS, ACCORDING TO PEREZ CALDAS, THAT HIS INITIAL REPORT WAS SENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND AN "ERROR IN DISTRIBUTION" PUT IT INTO THE HANDS OF OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL. THIS IRRITATED VADORA WHO THOUGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE THAT SINCE IT CONCERNED THE MILITARY THE REPORT SHOULD HAVE GONE TO HIM AND NOT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

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4. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, I HAVE BEEN URGING AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, AS I KNOW THE DEPARTMENT HAS, THAT URUGUAY TAKE THE KIND OF STEPS WHICH PEREZ CALDAS NOW SEES AS POSSIBLE. I BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE KEPT IMPORTANTLY IN MIND AS WASHINGTON DECIDES WHAT OUR OWN STEPS WILL BE WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATING TO URUGUAY, SUCH AS THE MATTER OF POLICE PISTOLS, F-86'S, ETC. RATHER THAN TAKE ANY ADVERSE DECISION WHICH MIGHT PRODUCE A NEGATIVE REACTION HERE, I WOULD STRONGLY ADVOCATE AT LEAST A DELAY IN ORDER TO SEE WHAT MAY DEVELOP. I HAVE ALREADY, OF COURSE, MADE MY OWN DIRECT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THESE TWO CASES.

5. WITH REGARD TO ORFILA, IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT I WILL BE SEEING HIM PRIVATELY AND INFORMALLY IN THE HOME OF MUTUAL FRIENDS WITH WHOM HE IS SCHEDULED TO STAY DURING PART OF HIS VISIT HERE. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONVEY THROUGH ME WHICH MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO A BENEFICIAL IMPACT OF HIS OWN CONVERSATIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH

REGARD TO THE OPENING OF DISCUSSIONS FOR AN EVENTUAL
VISIT HERE OF THE IAHC.
SIRACUSA

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